Organisation (EPFO) has made substantial investment in the IFCI and it has defaulted interest payments thereon to the EPFO;

(b) if so, the details of the investments made by the EPFO in the IFCI, the interest due for the financial year 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the defaulted payments;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IFCI has reduced the rate of interest on the EPFO investments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's investment in IFCI Ltd. as on 31.03.2003 was Rs. 1048.80 crores. IFCI has defaulted in payment of interest. Interest due and defaulted by IFCI as on the last day of the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 was Rs. 62.26 crores and Rs. 176.98 crores respectively as reported by the Portfolio Manager, State Bank of India, Mumbai. However, in April, 2003, IFCI Ltd. has cleared the outstanding dues of 2001-02 and has paid outstanding interest @ 9% for 2002-03. After receipt of these payments approximately Rs. 34 crore interest pertaining to 2002-03 is still outstanding against IFCI.

(c) and (d) IFCI had approached the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund (CBT) for restructuring of its debts. Central Board of Trustees in its 162nd meeting held on 27.06.2003 decided that IFCI be asked to meet its payment obligations at the contracted rates till 31.03.2003 along with overdue interest and @ 10% per annum subsequently. Central Board of Trustees also decided that the existing investments be rolled over for a further period of 10 years subject to these conditions.

Court of Enquiry under the Mines Act, 1952

2033. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for appointing a Court of Enquiry under the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and Mines Rules, 1955 to look into the GOK-7 mine accident at Karim Nagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A decision has been taken to constitute the Court of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of a sitting Judge of the High Court to enquire into the Godavarikhani Coal Mine Accident.

EPF interest rate

2034. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on EPF has been fixed at 9 per cent with 0.50 per cent bonus;

(b) if so, the reasons for not keeping the existing rate of interest at 9.5 per cent; and

(c) the financial benefit expected by Government by the revised rate over the existing rate during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund have recommended 9.5% interest rate to the Employees' Provident Fund subscribers for the year 2003-04, which included the Golden Jubilee Bonus interest rate of 0.5%.

(b) Rate of interest is decided on the basis of the income of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund from its investments and its interest liabilities to the subscribers.

(c) Nil.

EPF defaulters

2035. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major EPF defaulters in both public and private sectors together with the EPF amount pending for recovery;